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CLAIMS

1. A method for producing hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids, comprising the steps according to which:
- yeasts are cultured on a medium comprising at least one precursor of such hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids, and then
 - the hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids are isolated from the medium after bioconversion,
- said method being characterized in that said yeasts are yeasts transformed so as to express the product of the *Cyp7b* gene.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, for producing a hydroxylated steroid, characterized in that said yeasts have low or zero APAT activity, and/or in that said yeasts are cultured under conditions which are oxidative.
3. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said precursor contains a 7 position which can be hydroxylated.
4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said precursor is a 3-hydroxylated steroid, preferably a 3 β -hydroxylated steroid, or a steroid which has a 3-keto function.
5. The method as claimed in claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said precursor is chosen from the steroids with a structure of the androstane, androstene, pregnane, pregnene, cholane, cholene,

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cholesterol, ergostane, ergostene, testosterone or stigmasterane type.

- 5 6. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the precursor is chosen from the group consisting of DHEA, testosterone, pregnenolone, pregnanolone, 25-hydroxycholesterol, 5- α -androstane-3 β ,17 β -diol and 5- α -androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol.
- 10 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that the APAT activity of the yeast has been rendered low or zero by inactivation of the *atf2* gene or by using an *atf2*⁻ mutant.
- 15 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the yeast also carries dehydrogenase activity.
- 20 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the dehydrogenase activity is a 17-dehydrogenase which produces a 17-hydroxylated derivative.
- 25 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the 17-dehydrogenase activity is carried by the *yil124w* gene.
- 30 11. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the 17-dehydrogenase activity of the yeast has been rendered low or zero, in particular by inactivation of the *yil124w* gene or use of a *yil124w*⁻ mutant.
- 35 12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the yeast is of the genus *Saccharomyces*.

13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the *Cyp7b* gene is under the control of a yeast promoter chosen from *CYC1*, *TEF1* and *TDH3*.
- 5 14. A yeast strain having zero 17-dehydrogenase activity by inactivation of the *yil124w* gene.
- 10 15. A yeast strain transformed with a plasmid comprising an expression cassette expressing the *Cyp7b* gene.
- 15 16. The use of a steroid obtained using the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, for preparing a medicinal product for the treatment of diseases of the central nervous system.
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